REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the Final Office Action dated February 14, 2007, in which the Examiner:

indicated claims 2 and 6-11 and 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form; and

rejected claims 1, 3-5 and 12-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over WIPO Publication No. WO 01/06624 to Sasaki et al. ("Sasaki"), in view of JP 56-71442 ("Nakada").

Although Applicant traverses the rejection of claims 1, 3-5 and 12-18, in order to further prosecution of the present application, in the current Amendment, claims 2 and 6 have been rewritten in independent form, independent claims 1 and 16 have been amended to include the recitations of claim 19, and claim 19 has been cancelled. The remaining claims 3-5, 7-11, 12-15, 17 and 18 all depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1, 6 or 16. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-18 are allowable, at least pursuant to the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

Having substantially complied with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to claims 1, 3-5 and 12-18 be withdrawn, and the application be passed to issue.

Application No.: 10/539,500
Final Office Action Dated: 02/14/2007
Response to Final Office Action Dated: May 14, 2007

Please charge Deposit Account No. 13-0235 the amount of $200.00, the 37 C.F.R. § 1.16(h) fee for one (1) independent claim in excess of three (3). Applicant believes no additional fees are due in connection with this Response. If any additional fees are deemed necessary, authorization is hereby granted to charge any such fees to Deposit Account No. 13-0235.

Respectfully submitted,

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